

**Amendments to the Specification:**

*Paragraph beginning on page 4, line 31*

The electrical signal is then amplified and regenerated to yield a regenerated electrical signal 68. This signal is then converted to an optical signal 70 by electrical to optical converter 62. The optical signals [[from]] output from the N converters 62 are multiplexed by multiplexer 64 into a composite multi-wavelength optical signal that is then transmitted to the first node on the ring.